

WSDOT I-5 Construction in Seattle and Shoreline

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Dry forecast green-lights first weekend of construction on southbound I-5 between Olive Way and James Street

After two rainouts this month, crews will finally get the dry weather they'll need for the first weekend of paving through downtown Seattle. Drivers should expect traffic congestion on both directions of I-5 through Seattle during the entire weekend. We will close the following lanes and ramps for the entire weekend:

Friday, April 22 through Monday, April 25:

- The Union Street exit will close at noon on Friday,
- The Howell Street on-ramp will close at 10 p.m. Friday
- Two lanes of southbound I-5 will close at 10 p.m. Friday
- These lanes and ramps will remain closed the entire weekend
- All lanes and ramps will reopen by 5 a.m. Monday

The I-5 express lanes will run southbound and will remain open at all times this weekend to help keep traffic moving through downtown Seattle.

For up-to-date information on lane closures, weather delays or other late-breaking news related to James to Olive paving, please visit our [Web page](#).

During this first weekend of construction we will pave the Union Street exit and a 1500-foot-long section of the right lane and shoulder of southbound I-5 with concrete. After we install the concrete, you may see no activity while it cures. After the concrete cures, crews will come back in to conduct finishing work.

If you want to see crews at work over the weekend, please check their progress on your computer. While our first priority is to show traffic conditions, we will try to show construction crews at work from the [Pine Street camera](#) when traffic conditions allow it.

This weekend is the first of four major construction weekends for this project. The next three construction weekends are planned on April 29 - May 2, May 13 - 16, and May 20 - 23. We postponed our first two planned weekends of construction, April 1 - 4 and April 15

– 18, because of wet weather. If we must postpone additional weekends, we will then add June 17 – 20 and June 24 – 27 to our construction schedule.

While we are taking steps to minimize noise, people who live or work close to the construction may hear our construction work. How you will hear our construction will depend upon where you are and where crews are working. For example, residents who are able to directly view the freeway work zone from their home may hear or feel more than people whose homes are shielded by the Convention Center, walls or other buildings.

If you have questions or comments about construction noise, please call our **24-hour noise hotline at (206) 768-9052**.

Keeping traffic moving during downtown Seattle I-5 construction

During construction downtown Seattle will remain open for business. However, traffic congestion is unavoidable given the freeway lane and ramp closures required. On a regular day through downtown Seattle, the hourly capacity of one freeway lane is 1,500 vehicles. That adds up to about 7,500 vehicles per hour when all southbound lanes are open and the express lanes are running southbound. During this first weekend of construction, that capacity will drop to 6,000 vehicles per hour. That means hundreds of people need to use Aurora or I-405, carpool, ride the bus or reschedule their trips to keep traffic moving at its usual pace. See our new [By The Numbers](#) Web page for more interesting numbers.

We need **your** help to keep traffic moving:

- Plan ahead during construction by getting [real-time traffic information](#) from our Web site, the radio or television.
- Use Aurora Avenue (SR 99/Alaskan Way Viaduct) or I-405
- Allow extra time to get through Seattle during construction and, if possible, adjust your travel schedule.
- Share the ride—[carpool, vanpool, or ride the bus](#).
- Tell your friends: print and post our weekly traffic flier ([download the pdf from our Web site](#)) or forward this e-mail and encourage them to join our e-mail list.

To help keep traffic moving during construction, **we** will:

- Open the I-5 express lanes southbound and keep them open at all times this weekend.
- Operate the southbound mainline HOV lane as a temporary general-purpose lane.
- Encourage people to use alternate routes: I-405 and State Route 99 (Aurora Avenue/Alaskan Way Viaduct).
- Provide driver information on variable message signs, highway advisory radio, site, and via the toll-free **5-1-1** traveler information phone line.
- Provide extra Incident Response Teams to clear incidents and help drivers.

For more information on what we are doing to keep people moving, check out the [Traffic Info](#) page on our website. You'll also find detour routes for drivers who would usually use the Howell or Union ramps.

I-5 175th to 205th construction closes lanes through Shoreline

In the next week we will close I-5 lanes at night while crews replace guardrail and restripe lanes between the northbound NE 175th Street on-ramp and NE 205th Street exit in Shoreline.

- **Thursday, April 21**
 - The right lane of southbound I-5 will be closed from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m.
 - Two right lanes of northbound I-5 will be closed from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- **Monday and Tuesday, April 25**
 - Two right lanes of southbound I-5 will be closed from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m.
 - The HOV lane of northbound I-5 will be closed from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

This project is partially funded through your gas taxes, including the Nickel funding approved by the 2003 Washington State Legislature. Each time you fill up your tank, five cents of the 28-cent gas tax goes towards this and dozens of other specific, crucial transportation projects in Washington state. In 2003, the Legislature passed this new transportation funding to ensure projects like this one in Shoreline can be built. This project benefits local streets and drivers by preventing backups on 175th and near Meridian Road in Shoreline. With the extra capacity, drivers will not have to wait as long to get onto northbound I-5, unclogging 175th Street for through traffic. For more information on this project, go to our project [Web page](#).

If you would like to speak to someone about construction noise please call or leave a message at our construction project office at **(425) 225-8700**.

Harvard Avenue Noise Walls Started Going in on Friday

We finished building the noise wall foundation. On Friday, April 15 WSDOT's [I-5 Roanoke Vicinity Noise Wall](#) project team and Mowat Construction crews will begin installing the noise wall panels on Harvard Avenue. The first panels installed were toward the south end of Harvard, near Roanoke Street. The Harvard Avenue wall construction, which comprises the project's first stage, is expected to be finished by early May.

The I-5 Roanoke Vicinity Noise Wall project page now includes detailed information of the first stage's construction, including photos essay showing all the steps involved in building the new Harvard Avenue noise wall.

Other I-5 Construction North of Seattle & Shoreline

I-5 172nd Street Bridge Replacement Project in Arlington:

This week's forecast of dry weather prompted Washington State Department of Transportation to postpone switching traffic and demolishing the old Smokey Point bridge until the week of April 25. This delay will give workers optimal conditions to pave new roadway needed to move traffic to the completed northern half of the new bridge. Weather permitting the switch and demolition will take place next week. Demolition work will require the following closures for the safety of the traveling public:

- **Tuesday, April 26** – Crews will pave shoulders of SR 531 approaching the northern half of the new bridge. Between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 p.m. traffic on west and eastbound SR 531 will experience momentary delays to allow trucks and large equipment to enter and leave the project site.

- **Thursday, April 28** - WSDOT crews will make a single lane closure on westbound SR 531 from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. while they place temporary striping and switch traffic to the new bridge.
- **Saturday, April 30** - we will close all lanes of northbound I-5 from 11:30 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. while crews demolish half of the old bridge. Crews will be closing northbound I-5 the following Monday, May 2 between 12:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. to continue clean up.
- **Saturday, May 7** - we will close all lanes of southbound I-5 from 10:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. while crews demolish the bridge's remaining half. Crews will be closing southbound I-5 the following Monday, May 9 between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. to continue clean up.

During the I-5 closures drivers will be diverted up and over the off ramps and back on to the freeway. For more information about this project visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr531/smokeypt/.

Mount Vernon Second Street Bridge Replacement:

Expect lane closures on I-5 due to crews moving large equipment. No vehicles over 13 feet wide will be allowed through the construction zone northbound or southbound when one or more lanes are closed. Drivers should be prepared for delays when traveling through this area. Visit the project Web page for more information: http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/I5/2ndSt_BridgeRepl/.

Bellingham North of Lakeway Interchange/ Phase 1A:

Recent rains have delayed plans to open the weave lane on southbound I-5 currently being paved. Crews need dry weather to place final striping and signs. See the project Web page for more information: http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/I5/Bellingham/lakeway_ohiost/.

South King County I-5 E-mail Alerts

WSDOT crews are working on two projects on I-5 in south King County:

The [I-5 South 317th Street HOV Direct Access](#) ramps project will improve traffic flow, decrease travel times for carpools, vanpools and buses, and enhance safety for all drivers. WSDOT and Sound Transit are teaming up to build these ramps that connect the HOV lanes to the new Federal Way [Transit Center](#).

Construction began this month on the next stage in the [I-5 Pierce County Line to Tukwila HOV Lanes](#). This is a multi-phase project to add HOV lanes and improve pavement in both directions of I-5 between Tukwila and the Pierce County line.

Interested in knowing more? Sign up for [e-mail updates](#) for south King County road projects.

About This E-mail

Did a friend or colleague send you this e-mail? To join our list, send an e-mail to lyris@lists.wsdot.wa.gov with "subscribe i-5-seattle-construction" in the body of the e-mail. You'll receive an e-mail asking you to confirm your subscription. Just hit reply and send, and you'll receive another e-mail confirming that you are subscribed to our list. If you have any problems, just e-mail the communications team at i5Seattle@wsdot.wa.gov.